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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/614,571	07/07/2003	Yuichiro Ikemoto	9792909-5662	7482
26263	7590	08/25/2004		
SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP P.O. BOX 061080 WACKER DRIVE STATION, SEARS TOWER CHICAGO, IL 60606-1080			EXAMINER NGUYEN, THINH H	
			ART UNIT 2861	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/614,571	Applicant(s) IKEMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner Thinh H Nguyen	Art Unit 2861	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7,18,19,28 and 29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7,18,19,28 and 29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3-7, 18-19, 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimizu et al. (U.S. 6,386,668) in view of Allen et al. (U.S. 5,469,199)

Shimizu (fig.3) discloses the instant claimed line head of a printer having the head length equal to the width of recording paper for permitting fast printing, comprising:

at least one ink-ejecting mechanism (24), the at least one ink-ejecting mechanism having a printer head;

at least one head chip (231, 232, 233) formed on the printer head, the at least one head chip being formed in an array pattern on the printer head (23);
and

a plurality of nozzles (23a) associated with one nozzle array and nozzles associated with an adjacent nozzle array overlap along at least one direction to form an overlapped area on a print object such that when the at least one ink ejecting mechanism drives across the print object the nozzles of the one nozzle

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array and the nozzles of the adjacent nozzle array respectively eject inks which are mixed in the overlapped area to reduce dot density differences on the print object, wherein the nozzles are placed on the nozzle plate almost as wide as the print object (col.1, lines 16-18) to form the nozzle array in a direction perpendicular to the feeding direction of the print object.

Re claims 3, 4 limitations, it is apparent that nozzles in the overlapped areas (A-L; a-l; fig.28B) will be shifted such that a boundary is set when the print object is smaller than the overlapped areas.

Shimizu discloses the instant claimed subject matter with the exception of a nozzle plate; as many of said head chips as necessary for said predetermined colors said head chips aligned to form said print head; wherein said nozzles are formed on a nozzle plate;

as many of said nozzles as necessary for said head chips to be are formed; and as many of said nozzles as necessary for said predetermined colors are formed; and

as many of said plurality of head chips necessary for said predetermined colors are placed on said nozzle plate to form said printer head.

Allen et al. (col.4, lines 38-49) discloses the instant claimed nozzle plate 18 which may either contains a single head unit (group of nozzles) 20 or a number of head units or the nozzle plate can be extended almost as wide as the print object anywhere between approximately one-sixth inch and twelve inches. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the nozzle plate in Shimizu's printhead as

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such plate is inherently associated with most printheads. Further, the purpose of using the extended nozzle plate taught by Allen in Shimizu is to achieve precise alignment of the orifices which are arranged in the stacked manner as shown in figure 3.

Response to Amendment


Applicant's Amendment filed June 1, 2004 has been entered and carefully considered. However, arguments with respect to the claimed nozzle plate are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to examiner Thinh Nguyen at telephone number (571) 272-2257. The examiner can generally be reached Mon-Wed, Friday from 9:00A – 5:00P. Thursday at telephone number (571) 440-1447. The official fax phone number for the organization is (703) 872-9306.

The examiner supervisor, Stephen Meier, can also be reached at (571) 272-2149.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.


Thinh Nguyen
August 20, 2004

**Thinh Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2800**